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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BENTLEY-with-ARKSEY

Thirty-Fourth

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for 1958

by

J. T. BRIGGS
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1958

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Bentley,
Near Doncaster.

May, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report on the work of the year 1958.

Repair work on houses has speeded up considerably since the Rent Act came into operation as by such action owners have the opportunity of increasing the rent.

Increased work, caused by the Rent Act, Clean Air Act, Slaughterhouses Act and Regulations, Food Hygiene Regulations, etc., has meant that much routine work has been left in abeyance.

Itinerant van dwellers have been a continuous nuisance, but owing to their vagrant way of life it has not always been possible to take legal action. Action by this department and the Police has kept the position fluid in the sense that no permanent camps have been formed.

My thanks are due to the staff for their help, to Dr. Ferguson for his willing co-operation, and to the Members of the Council for their support.

Yours faithfully,
J. T. BRIGGS,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
J. FERGUSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health, Housing and Petroleum Inspector:
J. T. BRIGGS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector's Certificate.
Sanitary Science Certificate.
Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Additional Public Health Inspector:
L. HAY, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors' Joint Board.
Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Clerk:
J. WRIGHT (Mrs.)

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

GENERAL:

Area of District—4,961 acres
Population—21,880

	Visits	Re-visits
No. of visits made	4,920	345
„ complaints received	488	
„ complaints confirmed	463	
„ verbal notices	298	
„ informal notices	72	
„ statutory notices	12	
„ letters and notices from 1957 ...	61	
„ letters and notices outstanding 31st December, 1958 ...	35	
„ matters referred to Surveyor ...	150	

Summary of Visits:

Slaughterhouses	368	
Meat and Food Inspection	397	
Accumulations	20	
Animals and Poultry	5	
Ashplaces and Dustbins	7	
Atmospheric Pollution	39	
Bakehouses	6	
Canteens and Kitchens	14	
Cesspools	4	
Closets—Privies	2	
Closets—Water	20	9
Clubs and Licensed Premises	12	
Dairies	6	
Drains and Sewers	89	15
Factories	58	
Factories—Outworkers	1	
Fish Friers	14	
Flooding	19	
Food Stores & Vans re Hygiene Regulations	177	
Food Preparing Places	11	
Houses re Scarlet Fever	17	
Dysentery	1	
Poliomyelitis	1	
Prospective Council Tenants ...	251	
Sub-tenants	77	
Exchanges	128	
Council—Vacated	67	
Dirty Conditions	65	
Vermin—Bugs	5	2
Vermin—Other Types ...	8	
Housing Acts	89	258
Ice Cream Retailers	100	
Ice Lolly Makers	5	
Interviews	135	
Knackers Yards	62	
Moveable Dwellings	706	
Moveable Dwelling Sites	438	

	Visits	Re-visits
Nuisances Noted	12	
Offensive Trades	62	
Petroleum	72	
Pet Shops	2	
Piggeries	6	2
Rats and Mice	40	
Rent Act	106	3
Sampling—		
Food and Drugs Act	42	
Ice Cream—Bacterial Test	222	
Milk—Bacterial Test	105	
Water—Bacterial Test	28	
Water—Chemical Test	8	
Sanitary Inspections	64	40
Shops Act	8	
Sewage Works	4	
Schools	6	
Smoke Observations	28	
Special Visits	581	12
Streams, Water Courses and Ponds ...	5	
Tips	31	
Water Supplies	56	
Yards	8	4

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

Houses—Internal:

Bath waste pipes repaired	3
Coppers renewed	1
Copper brickwork and furnaces repaired ...	5
Doors and frames repaired or renewed ...	56
Door fasteners renewed	36
Fireplaces—	
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed ...	33
Open fireplaces repaired or renewed ...	12
Hearths renewed	45
Smoke nuisances abated	21
Floors repaired or renewed	40
Gas Pipes repaired	6
Plasterwork of walls renewed	47
Plasterwork of ceilings renewed	22
Sinks renewed	27
Washbasins	8
Sink waste pipes renewed	25
Skirting boards renewed	3
Water supply systems—	
Back boilers renewed	1
Pipes repaired	17
Taps renewed	3

Houses—External:

Chimneys repaired	20
Chimney pots renewed	34
House walls re-pointed	36
Damp walls treated	30
Dustbins renewed	563
Eaves spouts repaired or renewed	32
Rain water fall pipes renewed	14
Lead flashings and aprons renewed ...	15
Roofs repaired	35
Bay window roofs repaired	11
Windows—	
Frames repaired or renewed	30
Sashes renewed	75
Sashcords renewed	166
Fasteners renewed	60
Yards re-paved	8
Underfloor ventilation improved	4
Coalplaces:	
Walls repaired	2
Roofs repaired	7
Doors and frames repaired	11
Eaves spouts renewed	2
Rain water fall pipes renewed	2
Closets:	
Floors repaired	2
Walls repaired	2
Roofs repaired	11
Doors and frames repaired	7
Eaves spouts renewed	4
Rain water fall pipes renewed	4
Basins renewed	15
Seats renewed	12
Flushing cisterns renewed	11
Flush pipes renewed	8
Water pipes repaired	5
New water closets	3
Drains:	
Cleansed	111
Repaired and reconstructed	15
New constructions	7
Inspection chambers provided	12
Inspection chambers repaired	4
Inspection chamber covers renewed ...	5
Ventilation and soil pipes renewed ...	9
Factories:	
Additional urinals provided	1
Additional water closets provided	1
Grease traps cleared	1
New drains	1
Rat proofing	2
Sanitary arrangements cleansed	2
Fire escape certificates issued	6

Food Hygiene Regulations

Wash basins provided	65
Sinks provided	8
Water heating units provided	7
First aid kits provided	65
Water supply	41

General:

Accumulations removed	6
Piggeries cleared	2
Premises cleared of rats and mice	254
Fish Frier—ventilating system installed ...	1

Work Carried Out on Default of Owners

It has been necessary for the Council to carry out repair work on seven properties at a total cost of £562 7s. 8d.

Property Repairs

Although some owners of property are somewhat difficult to move, there is some acceleration in the rate of progress of repair work, and I have the feeling that the Rent Act 1957 is responsible to a very large extent for this improvement. It is now possible to raise a rent to a reasonable level where the house is in good condition or after repairs have been carried out, and the majority of tenants are accepting this position with very few complaints.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, Section 26

There was one application for the revocation of a certificate, and this was granted.

Rent Act, 1957

This Act is still being used by tenants of houses where repairs are needed, but not quite to the same extent as during the earlier period of its operation. Many houses have been repaired by the owners either voluntarily or after the issue of a Certificate of Disrepair, and now that material and labour are easier to obtain the position is improving.

No. of applications for certificates	38
No. of decisions to issue certificates	38
(a) in respect of all defects	20
(b) in respect of some defects	18
No. of undertakings given by landlords	20
No. of undertakings refused by local authority ...	—
No. of certificates issued	14
No. of applications for revocation of certificates ...	4

PROSECUTION

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269

One person was prosecuted for using land in contravention of Section 269, and was fined £2 for using land for more than 42 days consecutively, and a further £2 for using the land intermittently for more than 60 days, with £3 3s. 0d. costs.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

With the exception of six houses on shallow wells, and three on boreholes, all were on the public supply. Town's water has been carried to a few houses by churn for drinking purposes.

Eight samples were taken for chemical analysis, and all were of good organic purity.

Twenty-eight samples were taken for bacterial test, twenty-six were satisfactory, and two were doubtful; eighteen were from the town supply, nine from boreholes, and one from a shallow well. The people using the doubtful supplies were warned to boil all water before use.

Closet Accommodation and Cesspools

All properties but one within reach of the sewer were connected to the sewerage system, and at the end of the year there were eight privies, 19 pail closets and 17 water closets connected to cesspools. There were 26 cesspools.

Cleansing of Drains

The arrangements for clearing drains were continued to the benefit of property owners and tenants, such nuisances were cleared rapidly at a very low cost.

Municipal Dustbin Scheme

The rate-borne scheme for the renewal of dustbins is working very well, and 563 dustbins were supplied during the year.

Flooding

During the early part of July exceptionally heavy and continuous rains fell on the district, which caused a very real threat of flooding, and a few houses in the Toll Bar area were affected to the extent of a few inches above the ground floor level. This position was remedied by increasing the pumping capacity at the local drainage stations. An anxious watch was kept on the River Don as the water rose almost to danger level for a time, but, fortunately, the water subsided without dire results.

Verminous Properties

The following properties were treated for vermin:

Type of Vermin	Council Houses	Private Houses
Ants	55	2
Blackclocks	6	11
Bugs	1	8
Earwigs	13	—
Silver Fish	3	—
Woodworm	8	1
Flies	2	3

A variety of vermicides were used in the extermination of insect pests, and the most suitable was used for the work in hand. The majority of food shops now enjoy almost complete freedom from flies by the use of suitable repellants.

Rodent Control

This work has been reduced to almost a routine and potential rat harbours receive close attention. There are certain spots which are infested by rats from the countryside at the beginning of every winter, and these receive special attention so that the number of rats is kept very low.

Details of Rat and Mice treatment

Complaints received	83
Premises treated	254
Inspections and treatments	1,319
Poison baits laid for rats	8,925
Poison baits laid for mice	81

Atmospheric Pollution

The three instruments set up by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to gauge the extent of atmospheric pollution were in operation throughout the year.

INVESTIGATION OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION ANALYSIS, 1958

Month	Rain in Inches	Insoluble Deposit Tons per Square Mile	Soluble Deposit Tons per Square Mile	Total Solids Tons per Square Mile	Sulphur mg/100 sq. cms/day
January ...	2.20	38.78	6.57	45.35	2.37
February ...	3.11	7.61	6.05	13.66	1.40
March ...	1.34	4.62	4.69	9.31	1.26
April ...	0.13	10.81	4.31	15.12	0.91
May ...	2.15	3.16	4.17	7.33	0.53
June ...	4.35	9.31	9.56	18.87	0.70
July ...	4.46	3.76	6.67	10.43	0.76
August ...	2.47	4.10	5.42	9.52	0.59
September	1.61	3.20	4.59	7.78	0.46
October ...	1.72	1.94	3.20	5.14	0.55
November ..	0.38	15.15	4.45	19.60	0.74
December ..	3.17	8.27	7.78	16.05	1.98
Average per month	2.25	9.22	5.62	14.84	1.02
Average per month, 1957	1.93	6.68	6.61	13.29	1.42

Smoke Observations

Twenty observations were made of the chimneys of the South Yorkshire Woodworking Company, and on only one occasion was there an emission of black smoke of short duration. The trouble with this plant is the emission of charred wood and grit, and, whilst there is an improvement, I feel that the only cure is the installation of properly designed furnaces to obtain complete combustion of the chippings and sawdust.

The colliery chimneys have maintained their good record of little or no smoke during the whole of the year.

Burning Colliery Tip

There is still evidence of fire in the colliery tip, but there has been a great improvement, as the volume of smoke given off is greatly reduced. The new method of compacting and consolidating the waste material seems to be effective, and any new fire is dug out immediately.

Moveable Dwellings

There were ten licensed sites containing 38 vans, and all complied with the Council's requirements.

The gravest problem is the wandering caravan dweller who has no sense of cleanliness and tidiness, or respect for other people's property. But for the energetic action of the Police and the Health Department in keeping these people on the move, plots of land and country lanes would become rubbish dumps and eyesores.

The establishment of permament camps by such people is very undesirable because their way of life constitutes a danger to the health of the general public.

Offensive Trades

Bone boiler and blood drier	1
Rag Store	1

The bone boiling plant has been carried on in a reasonable manner, and the owner takes every precaution possible to avoid being a nuisance. Such a plant requires constant expert supervision and attention to keep it in good order, and some of the technical difficulties are not easy to solve.

LICENCES AND REGISTRATIONS

Petroleum Acts

Thirty-four licences were issued for the storage of petroleum in bulk.

Pet Animals Act 1951

One licence to keep a pet shop was issued.

Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

The premises of one firm are registered for upholstery work.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Dairymen and Dairies

Retailers taken off the register	Nil
Retailers entered on the register	1
Retailers on the register 31st December, 1958 ...	9
Premises on the register 31st December, 1958 ...	5

There is one small capacity pasteurising plant in continuous use. All the Dairies were kept in good condition.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations

Dealers' Licences for the sale of:

Pasteurised Milk	8
Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
Sterilised Milk	48

Supplementary Licences for the sale of—

Pasteurised Milk	3
Tuberculin Tested Milk	3
Sterilised Milk	2

SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Slaughterhouses

There are four slaughterhouses and one knackers yard licensed for use. One slaughterhouse was very busy, two in regular use. and one very little used.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924-1952

Special Notices from Slaughterhouses ... 341

The regulations have been properly observed by people slaughtering animals for food for human consumption.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933-1954

Humane slaughtering of all animals is in force throughout the district.

No. of Slaughtermen's licences issued ... 23

Milk Sampling

Under the West Riding County Council's scheme your Chief Public Health Inspector carries out the sampling of milk in this area for chemical analysis. Forty two samples were taken and all were genuine.

Registered Food Premises

Manufacturer of Lollipops	1
Wholesale store for Ice Cream	1
Retailers of Ice Cream and Lollipops	62
Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pickled, pressed or preserved foods	20
Fish Friers	13

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955

It has not been possible to spend as much time on this subject as I could wish, owing to urgent work on other matters. Nevertheless, many improvements have been made, and many shops, clubs and other places handling foodstuffs have installed hot water supplies, sinks and wash-basins. The byelaws relating to the handling of food prepared the way for this further work, but we have now to deal with the last-ditchers in order to complete the work.

Food Premises

The food preparing places have been visited when time has permitted, and conditions have been found to be satisfactory.

Sampling of Food for Bacterial Test

Ice Cream

Grading on Methylene Blue Test (All Types)

Grade 1	137	85.63%	98.76%
Grade 2	21	13.13%	
Grade 3	1	0.62%	1.24%
Grade 4	1	0.62%	
Total	160		

Wrapped Choc Ices

Grade 1	23	76.67%	97.67%
Grade 2	6	20.00%	
Grade 3	1	3.33%	3.33%
Grade 4	—	—	
Total	30		

Ice Lollipops

No Coliform Bacteria	59
Coliform Bacteria present ...	2
Total ...	61
Total No. of Samples	221
Test tube broken	1
	222

These samples were taken from all types of premises, and results were very good, those graded in grades 3 and 4 were just above 1% of the total number of ice creams.

The condition of premises and conservators is always observed during sampling and at other times and usually they are very satisfactory.

Meat and Food Inspections

Visits to Slaughterhouses	368
Inspections of Meat and Other Foods	397
Number of Condemnations	487
Animals slaughtered—	
Horses	2,805
Cows	435
Builocks and Heifers	275
Bulls	3
Calves	30
Pigs	398
Sheep	113
Total ...	4,059

Condemnations

		lbs. ozs.
Cows—Carcases and Offals	— 48 ...	13,720
Forequarters	— 7 ...	1,060
Hindquarters	— 3 ...	350
Heads and Tongues	— 42 ...	1,680
Lungs	— 77 ...	2,310
Livers	—106 ...	1,484
Mesenteries	— 23 ...	265
Udders	— 1 ...	12
Hearts	— 1 ...	6
Flanks	— 4 ...	80
Bullocks and Heifers—		
Carcases and Offals	— 14 ...	7,500
Forequarters	— 2 ...	250
Heads and Tongues	— 18 ...	720
Tongues	— 1 ...	3
Lungs	— 18 ...	540
Livers	— 25 ...	450
Kidneys	— 1 ...	2
Hearts	— 1 ...	6
Mesenteries	— 3 ...	42

			lbs.	ozs.
Bulls—Head and Tongue	— 1	...	45	
Calves—Carcases and Offals	— 6	...	1,270	
Heads and Tongues	— 1	...	30	
Lungs	— 3	...	32	
Livers	— 2	...	6	
Mesenteries	— 1	...	6	
Horses—Carcases and Offals	— 14	...	10,400	
Forequarters	— 1	...	180	
Livers	—166	...	2,324	
Pigs —Carcases and Offals	— 12	...	1,822	
Hindquarters	— 6	...	258	
Heads and Tongues	— 11	...	220	
Lungs	— 56	...	570	
Livers	— 7	...	42	
Mesenteries	— 1	...	10	
Hearts	— 2	...	2	
Sheep— Carcase and Offal	— 1	...	40	
Hindquarters	— 1	...	20	
Meat—310 tins			1,671	
Fruit—712 tins			512	8
Vegetables—199 tins			200	8
Fish—11 tins			3	9
Milk and Cream—199 tins			79	1
Soup—2 tins			2	
Jams—8 tins			7	8
Rice, etc.—7 tins			4	7
Cereals—2 packets			1	8
Cordials—2 bottles			1	9
Cooked Meats			6	
Hams and Bacon			85	8
Sausage			48	
Cheese			65	
Butter			1	
Potatoes			14,875	
Biscuits			2	
			64,923	2

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	278	435	30	113	398	2,805
Number inspected	278	435	30	113	398	2,805
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcases condemned ...	5	25	5	1	11	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	39	97	1	1	55	168
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	15.83	28.04	20.0	1.77	16.58	6.45
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	9	21	1	—	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	32	167	3	—	20	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	14.74	43.22	13.33	—	5.52	0.03
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

MILK

Samples for Bacterial and Biological Test

Type	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised	1	1	—
Raw Milks—Ordinary	57	40	17
Graded—T.T. Certified	38	33	5
Raw Milks—Biological	23	23	—
Total	119	97	22

Raw Milks—Methylene Blue Test

Time of Decolourisation	Summer Time	Winter Time
Under 1 hour	—	—
Between 1 hour and 2 hours ...	1	1
Between 2 hours and 3 hours ...	7	—
Between 3 hours and 4 hours ...	5	—
Between 4 hours and 5 hours ...	5	3
Between 5 hours and 5½ hours ...	—	—
Satisfactory	42	32
Total ...	60	36

Raw Milks—Biological Test

No. of Samples	Negative	Positive
23	23	—

Pasteurised Milk—Phosphatase Test

No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1	1	—

Note: One sample—Test Tube broken.

The policy of concentrating on raw milks was continued as it constitutes a greater potential danger to health than treated milk.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1.—Cases Notified and Investigated

Cases notified 24
Cases removed to hospital 19

Classification

Scarlet Fever 21
Poliomyelitis 1
Meningitis 1
Dysentery 1

Distribution

Ward	Scarlet Fever	Polio-myelitis	Dysentery	Meningitis	Total
North Road	14	1	1	—	16
Old Bentley	1	—	—	—	1
New Village	6	—	—	1	7
Total ...	21	1	1	1	24

2—Tuberculosis

New Notifications 12
No. on Register 31st December, 1958—
Pulmonary 166
Non-Pulmonary 24

3—Disinfections

Houses 12

HOUSING ACTS—OVERCROWDING

No complaint of overcrowding was received. The list of applications for houses apart from houses for old persons numbers about 220, but only people living in rooms and lodgings, and certain medical cases were being considered.

HOUSING ACTS 1936-1957

Housing Act 1957, Sections 16 and 17

One house reported for action late in 1957, was vacated in April, 1958, and is awaiting demolition. Two houses reported in July 1958, were vacated towards the end of the year and will be cleared to provide a site for a small housing scheme.

Clearance Areas

Of the seven small areas represented for clearance, five were confirmed, one was confirmed with modifications, and one was not confirmed. All the occupants have been re-housed, mainly by the local authority, and the properties are in various stages of demolition.